

A NEW SPECIES OF MACHAERIUM (LEGUMINOSAE) FROM NICARAGUA

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Collection of additional specimens for the Flora de Nicaragua has further complicated the understanding of an otherwise difficult group of Machaerium ranging from México to Colombia and Venezuela. The complex includes species such as M. arboreum (Jacq.) Vog., M. acuminatum H.B.K., M. pittieri Macbr. (M. acuminatum var. latifolium Benth.), M. chiapense Brandeg., and others. Delimitation of the type specimens is relatively easy, chiefly on the basis of the fruit, but other collections show intermediate characters. The flowers and leaves are mostly similar. Apparently no studies have been made to determine what ecological, especially edaphic, characters might be contributory to the distribution of the various taxa.

Two species of what may be called the M. arboreum complex occur in Nicaragua. One, M. pittieri Macbr. (Field Mus. Bot. 4: 91. 1925), has been lectotypified by Gerstede 7 (K), Nicaragua, "inter Granada et Nicaragua", in 1857 (nuda, Bol. Soc. Bot. Méx., no. 37: 144. 1977). It was based on M. acuminatum H.B.K. var. latifolium Benth. (Jour. Linn. Soc. Bot. 4, suppl.: 65. 1860), later raised to specific status as M. latifolium (Benth.) Rittier (Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 20: 470. 1922), non Husby 1910. In addition to "Nicaragua, Gerstede", Bentham cited "Xalapa, Galeotti; Mount Orizaba, Broteri, n. 1021", both collections from Veracruz, México. Rittier based his observations on a collection from Costa Rica, "A. Tonduz (Inst. Fís. Geogr. Costa Rica, no. 10069). All of those specimens are more or less similar and, for the time being, at least, are being treated as conspecific.

In Nicaragua there is what appears to be a second, related species, here described as new. It is chiefly distinguished by its larger, tomentulose fruit.

MACHAERIUM NICARAGUENSE kudd, sp. nov.

A speciebus affinibus, M. arboreum Jacq., M. acuminatum H.B.K., M. pittieri Macbr., etc., fructibus majoribus, tomentulosis imprimis distinguendum.

Arbores ad fere 10 m. altae, inermes; stipulae deltoideae, glabrae, leviter induratae, subpersistentes vel caducae, 1-5 mm longae; folia 3-5-foliolata; foliola ovata ad lanceolato-ovata, subcoriacea, fere (3.5-) 6-16 cm longa, (1.5-) 2.5-7.5 cm lata, acuta ad leviter acuminata, acumine 0.5-2 cm longo, basi rotundato usque ad cuneato, supra glabra, subtus glabra vel subglabra, venulis irregulariter reticulatis, plerumque non prominulis;

inflorescentiae axillares, racemosae vel paniculatae, tomentulosae; flores 6-8 mm longi, sessiles, calyx 2-3 mm longo, 1.5 mm diametro, striato, puberulento, petalis albis, fere in siccate nigricans, vexillo pubescenti; fructus alatus, fere rectus, plerumque subcylindricus, (6-) 8-15 cm longus cum stipite 3-7 (-10) mm longo, parte seminifera 2-3.5 cm longa, 2-3 cm lata, ala circiter (4-) 5-10 cm longa, (2-) 3-3.8 cm lata, demum plus minusve glabrescente.

Type: W. D. Stevens 16329, Nicaragua, Depto. de Madriz, lower W slope of Cerro Volcán de Somoto; ca 13° 25' N, 86° 35' W, elev 900-1300 m; pastures below and disturbed deciduous forest above, 15 Dec. 1979, in fruit (holotype MO, no. 3294008; isotype SFV).

Additional collections:

Nicaragua: Depto. de Nuevo Segovia: El Jícaro, "Las Animas", elev. 750-800 m, Moreno 1932 (MO). El Jícaro, "Quebrada Grande", elev. 700-750 m, Moreno 13918 (MO, SFV). "Las Gallineras", 2 km de Kurra, orilla de Quebrada La Kula, elev. ca 700-800 m, Moreno 5891 (MO, SFV). La Tronquera, elev. 660-700 m, Moreno 19459 (EC). Quebrada El Nancital, ca km 233.5, ca 6.2 km N of edge of Ocotal, mixed evergreen and deciduous forest in quebrada, cutover pine forest on slopes and ridge, elev. 700-760 m, Stevens 5056 (MO, SFV). Depto. de Madriz: Cerro Quisuga, summit and upper slopes, steep rocky slopes, elev. 1100-1250 m, Stevens 16037 (MO, SFV). S of Somoto, between Santa Teresa and El Rodeo, heavily grazed oak forest on rocky slopes, elev. 800-900 m, Stevens 22221 (MO, SFV). Depto. de Esteli: Mun. San Juan de Limay, valle Las Cascadas, elev. 800-900 m, Moreno 1930 (MO, SFV).

Honduras: Depto. de Morazán: Region of Río de la Orilla, SE of El Zamorano, rocky wooded river bank, elev. 900-950 m, Standley 25806 (NY). Near Suyapa, along Quebrada Suyapa, in barranco, elev. 1100 m, Molina 578 (MO). Depto. de Paraíso: Matorrales del Río Mata Inao, entre San Francisco y Lizapa, elev. 900 m, Molina 14448 (NY), 14452 (NY). Jamastrán Valley, Hacienda Quebrada Seca, elev. 500 m, Molina 20310 (NY). Depto. de Ocotepeque: Vicinity of San Antonio, cutover pine-oak forest al Cerro, elev. 1300 m, Molina 22474 (MO, NY).